

Bell Transcript

DALLAS — Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. said the conversation of two company executives now contained in court records involves "half truths, hearsay and innuendoes that have been reported as facts."

Alleged company improprieties, such as political slush funds, illegal wiretapping and personal use of corporate money, are discussed in transcripts of tape recorded conversations between James Ashley and Bill Holman.

Ashley has been dismissed from Bell and Holman, former division manager for the Austin area, is now on "special assignment" for the company.

"We believe any reporter who has listened to the tape or seen its transcript would agree that it appears to have been carefully staged—a role-play situation with Mr. Ashley taking the leading role," Bell said in a prepared statement.

The transcript has been introduced into court records in connection with an antitrust suit filed against Southwestern Bell at San Antonio.